influence the direction of scientific speculation for some time to come.

In the first paper Mr. Bertrand Russell has given a very lucid example of what he has described as scientific method in philosophy. He submits "pure experience" to exhaustive scientific analysis. The outcome, if we follow and accept the writer's argument, is surprising, and probably to most people disconcerting. Like Hume, he fails to discover anything in experience corresponding to the subject, or anything like an act of perceiving which might constitute a subject, and he concludes, therefore, that the subject of experience is a logical construction. The next article is of more distinctively scientific interest. It is a symposium on the subject of "Time, Space, and Material." It is discussed from several points of view, scientific and philosophical, by Prof. Whitehead, Sir Oliver Lodge, Prof. J. W. Nicholson, Dr. Henry Head, Mrs. Adrian Stephen, and Prof. Wildon Carr. The keynote is Prof. Whitehead's criticism of the concept of "all Nature at an instant" and his insistence that the ultimate datum of science is an event. The continuity which science must hypostatise is not an ether of space, but an ether of events. There are two other symposia of present interest, one on the problem of individuality with particular reference to the concept of the relation of the individual to God, the other on the epistemological problem: "Is there 'knowledge by acquaintance'?"

The annual volume contains ten papers read during the past session of varied, but without exception of high, interest. The presidential address by Dr. G. E. Moore on "Some Judgments of Perception" is an admirable piece of close reasoning in analysis of a simple judgment, such as "That is an inkstand." Methodological problems of various kinds are discussed in papers by Prof. Laird, Mr. C. D. Broad, Mr. A. E. Heath, and Prof. J. B. Baillie. Prof. Wildon Carr expounds and defends the concept of "windowless" monads. Mrs. Duddington, in a paper on "Our Knowledge of Other Minds," develops an interesting theory of the immediacy and directness of this knowledge. Principal Jevons writes an appreciation of Tagore. Mr. A. F. Shand has an original study of deep psychological interest on "Emotion and Value." The last paper in the volume is by the Dean of St. Paul's on "Platonism and Immortality." It is a philosophical treatment of the most profound problem in social and political ethics, one which, moreover, is of great scientific interest—is there any reason to believe in human progress? The Dean holds that there is not.

MEDICAL AND SOCIAL WAR-WORK IN EGYPT.

(1) *The Australian Army Medical Corps in Egypt. An Illustrated and Detailed Account of the Early Organisation and Work of the Australian Medical Units in Egypt in* 1914–1915. By Lt.-Col. J. W. Barrett and Lt. P. E. Deane. Pp. xiv+259. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1918.) Price 12*s*. 6*d*. net.

(2) *The War Work of the Y.M.C.A. in Egypt.* By Sir J. W. Barrett. Pp. xx+212. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1919.) Price 10*s*. 6*d*. net.

(1) THE first book gives a detailed account of the early organisation and work of the Australian Army Medical Corps in Egypt. Prior to the outbreak of war the Corps was of meagre dimensions, in spite of the fact that compulsory medical training had come into operation in Australia in 1911. When war was declared, the Australian Government decided to raise and equip a division, 18,000 strong, the medical establishment of which consisted of regimental medical officers and three field ambulances. Later, further divisions were raised and sent to the front. It soon became clear that "lines of communication medical units" were required, and the first hospital units with a 520-bed hospital arrived in Egypt in January, 1915, and were housed at the Heliopolis Palace Hotel. This afterwards expanded into hospital and convalescent accommodation consisting of 10,600 beds, and in the three days April 30–May 2, 1915, no fewer than 1352 cases were admitted from Gallipoli, and were successfully dealt with—a sufficient tribute to the completeness of the organisation. A general review is given of the sickness and mortality among the Australians, and of the steps taken to prevent epidemics. A chapter is devoted to venereal diseases—described as being the greatest problem of camp life in Egypt—in which much sound advice is given for dealing with these scourges. A further chapter deals with the work of the Red Cross in Egypt, and in another suggestions are made with the view of increasing the efficiency of the Australian Army Medical Service. Sir James Barrett and Lt. Deane have compiled a very readable and useful narrative, and the volume is illustrated with many plates.

(2) This volume deals not with the general work of the Young Men's Christian Association, but with the special war work so successfully undertaken by it in Egypt and Palestine. A brief account is first given of the foundation and general policy of the association and of its prewar work in Egypt. Two months after war broke

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out 20,000 Territorials reached Egypt, and the Y.M.C.A. at once began its work among them. At Heliopolis 5000 troops encamped in the desert, with nothing to do after the day's routine ended, and within four days a marquee had been obtained, and writing accommodation, followed by a circulating library and canteen, provided. In addition, postal facilities were arranged for three weeks until the Government post office was established, and some 1500–2000 letters were dealt with daily. From 1915 onwards soldiers' clubs were established in all the principal military centres of the Near East. Sir James Barrett bears eloquent testimony to the invaluable work of the Y.M.C.A. In a concluding sentence he says: "The strength, in my judgment, of this organisation lies in the fact that its members possess an ideal which finds expression in services to their fellows of the most practical character. . . . Whether we shall all agree with their ideals in the abstract or not is outside the question, for all can join in admiring and respecting their single-minded efforts to better humanity." Gen. Allenby, who contributes a preface, writes in a similar strain: "No one has more reason than I to be grateful to the Y.M.C.A. for its work in connection with the army. Throughout the campaign its workers have followed closely the fighting line, and their labours have done much to keep up the moral, mental, and physical efficiency of my troops. . . . Broad-minded Christianity, self-regardless devotion to work, a spirit of daring enterprise, and sound business guidance have built up an organisation which has earned the gratitude of the Empire."

SCIENTIFIC BIOGRAPHY.

(1) *Herschel.* By the Rev. Hector Macpherson. (Pioneers of Progress: Men of Science. Edited by Dr. S. Chapman.) Pp. 78. (London: S.P.C.K.; New York: The Macmillan Co., 1919.) Price 2*s.* net.

(2) *Lectures on Ten British Physicists of the Nineteenth Century.* By Alexander Macfarlane. (Mathematical Monographs: No. 20.) Pp. 144. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1919.) Price 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

(3) *Joseph Dalton Hooker.* By Prof. F. O. Bower. (Pioneers of Progress: Men of Science. Edited by Dr. S. Chapman.) Pp. 62. (London: S.P.C.K.; New York: The Macmillan Co., 1919.) Price 2*s.* net.

IN most directions we have had to abandon our aspirations and sanguine prophecies of a reconstruction which should lead to a better world and almost justify the horrors of war. But in one direction hope remains; there has certainly been a growth in the popular appreciation of science. However, like most good things, it has its dangers; it was the applications of science, rather than science itself, which stimulated popular interest during the war. We are not yet sure that the better judgment of value is based on a better understanding; and, if it is not, if science is to be appreciated merely because it is useful in the arts of war and peace, we shall soon be wishing fervently that interest may once more be replaced by apathy.

The danger is partly our own fault. We complain that the populace have neglected science; but science has also neglected the populace; we have not offered the laity of our best. "Popular science" has too often consisted of superficial lectures with showy experiments or trashy sentimentalism about the romance of radium and the starry heavens. We ought not to be surprised if those to whom science is presented in so unscientific a guise are indifferent to its value and ignorant of its meaning.

In order to make the laity understand rightly, we must start from a common ground. And there is a common ground: the proper study of mankind is man. Great men of science are often great men as well; by utilising the universal interest in great personalities, we may lead the way to a true comprehension of their work. Science, it is true, has a strong impersonal element; but it has also a strong personal element; it is on the latter that we must found a comprehension of the former. It is significant that an abstruse scientific problem has been noticed recently in the daily Press under such headlines as "Newton *v.* Einstein." The personal element of the matter was the first to appeal to the popular imagination.

For these reasons the volumes before us would have been welcome, even if they had represented an attempt rather than an achievement. It would not have been surprising if first attempts at popular scientific biographies had been partial failures; but here they are not. We have left little space to speak in detail of Mr. Macpherson's and Mr. Macfarlane's books, because all that there is to be said of them can be adequately conveyed in a single sentence. They are as good as they can be, and a great deal better than we should have imagined possible. Mr. Macpherson's task was perhaps as easy as that of a scientific biographer can be, for Sir William Herschel's work is easy to understand and the facts of his life might have been taken from a romantic novel; but everything looks easy when done by a master of the craft. Mr. Macfarlane's book is even more remarkable;

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